

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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MEETING

Tuesday, November 15, 2016
8:00 A.M. - Highway Office

Present were Dwayne Larson, Gerald Heimann, Wayne Wilson, Ted Wiegel and Tom Jean.

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order.

The agenda was properly posted at the Lafayette County Courthouse, the Darlington Municipal Building and the Lafayette County Highway Department.

Motion by Wilson, second by Wiegel to approve the agenda, motion carried.

Motion by Wiegel, second by Heimann to approve the minutes of the meeting dated October 28, 2016, motion carried.

Motion by Wiegel, second by Heimann to approve Voucher #4394, Motion carried.

The Committee met with Sheriff Reg Gill to discuss the Communication Tower, the costs incurred to date, who is responsible for those costs, and any costs in the future. Tom started the discussion by saying we had sent a bill to Comelec for excavation work to get the site ready for the tower for \$4,354.20, but they did not feel those costs were their responsibility. Reg talked to Comelec and then the Law Enforcement Committee, and their recommendation was to split the bill four ways between the Sheriff's Dept, Emergency Management, Highway Department, and Comelec (\$1,088.55 each).

The new tower and the communication building housing all equipment for the tower were then discussed. Sheriff Gill felt both the tower and the building should be County owned, paid for, insured, and maintained from the General Fund, and not by either the Sheriff's Dept. or the Highway Department as neither of us borrowed the money for the project, nor was it included in either budget. Lisa had prepared a spreadsheet showing costs for 2015 and 2016 for \$42,956.78 (\$3,480.47 for the Tower, and \$39,476.31 for the building). There will be electricity bills in the future for heating and air conditioning, but since there is not a separate meter for that building, the highway department will have to get in touch with the electrical company and figure out how much the usage is on just that building alone. Lightning strikes and costs associated with repairs for that were also discussed. After discussion, Heimann made a motion, to send all of these bills to Building & Insurance Committee (B&I). Also, in the future any revenue generated from the Tower (as in someone renting tower space) should go back into the General Fund. Motion second by Wiegel, and carried.

The State Routine Maintenance Agreements (RMA's) for 2017 in the amount of \$953,600 were approved and signed. The total is down \$7,100 from 2016. Motion by Wilson, second by Heimann to sign agreement. Motion carried.

The October overtime report was noted.

Tom informed the committee that one of our employees is retiring and his last day will be December 1 so we need to replace him. Motion by Wilson, second by Wiegel to go to the next Human Resources meeting (Dec. 2) for approval to hire someone. Motion carried.

Projects Update:

-The new tower is up and working (few bugs yet to work out), so something needs to be done about getting rid of the old one. Paul from Comelec just happened to stop in the office about that time, so Tom asked him what his thoughts were on the old one. He said it could be listed on Ebay (or elsewhere) for bids and may be worth about \$6000. He recommended letting the bidder be responsible for taking it down to avoid the County getting involved in liability issues. Tom asked him if Comelec could give an estimate on what they would charge to take it down. He will get back to Tom with that estimate. Paul also informed the committee that our communication building is one of the best he has ever seen, our employees did a wonderful job of building it, and those guys should be kept! Paul said Comelec had talked with Jack Sauer about renting space on the tower, but that will be discussed at a B&I meeting.

-Meise Construction started working on the bike trail between Platteville and Belmont about three weeks ago. The old railroad corridor did not have a good base, so there will be more costs associated with that. There was also more grant money awarded on this project; However there may not be enough money to cover all the costs, so we need an agreement between the City of Platteville, the Village of Belmont, and the Highway Department to cover (and split) any costs not covered by the other sources of funding. Tom will work on getting this agreement.

-Tom and Dan have met a couple times with representatives from the wind tower company who purchased land at the intersection of CTH O and Holland Road. They gave an estimate of \$1 million for road repairs for using the roads during construction, \$800,000 for town roads, and \$200,000 for county roads. Dan & Tom figured a mill and overlay would be about \$150,000/mile, so if they use and damage 10 miles that would be about \$1.5 million. Tom felt the company needs to come back with another proposal, and also include who is responsible if the roads break up during construction.

-Lisa presented a spreadsheet showing costs to date for the County K building cleanup (\$997.37), old parking lot work (\$6,453.23), new parking lot work (\$73,383.10), sidewalk (\$5,623.07), and any other work that we were asked to do (ditching, driveway got moved, seeding, remove trees, soft spots in old parking lot, etc). The total amount for all of this for 2015 and 2016 amounted to \$86,456.77. The resolution to do just the parking lot was not to exceed \$50,000, however there were additional costs of \$23,383.10 incurred. Tom asked the committee what we are to do with those additional costs. After discussion, motion made by Heimann, and second by Wiegel to send the bills to Building & Insurance committee (B&I) for payment. Motion carried.

-We did shouldering on STH 78 from Argyle to Blanchardville, and now we are finishing up crackfilling on Hwy. 23 south. CTH G will be done next year, along with the County O bridge replacement, and CTH U bridge in 2018.

Equipment Update:

-we got the new loader and are calibrating the scale on it. They gave us a seven-year powertrain warranty with it for no extra charge. The new truck (#168) should be here around the end of November. Since the shop foreman is currently off work we have about \$3000 extra in costs for Monroe to put the lights on the truck and wing, and put the toolbox on. We are having trouble with radiator on #176 so it is in Shullsburg for repairs.

-As of the end of September the Fixed Asset account had a balance of about \$500,000. Of that amount, approximately \$208,000 is for the loader, and \$202,000 is for the new truck. We need to look at replacing a tractor and mower, so Dan and Tom will pursue that. Also, Monroe Truck and Truck Country have offered to extend the 2016 prices for a truck and attachments into 2017 if we are interested.

The 2017 Levy was briefly discussed. Lisa updated the committee on a couple changes in the Levy amount from what was originally approved. Finance informed us that County Aid Bridge money cannot be included in the Highway levy, so that \$40,000 was taken out, County Construction was decreased by \$20,000, and Winter Maintenance was decreased by \$3,182.00 to cover a couple expenses that Finance missed including in the original budget. Therefore, our levy ends up being \$1,822,818.00.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 28, and December meetings were tentatively set for December 14 and 29, with Traffic Safety meeting scheduled for December 15.

Motion by Wiegel, second by Heimann to adjourn the meeting, motion carried.